

# A New Species of Freshwater Fish of the Genus *Hemiramphus* Cuv. from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

BY

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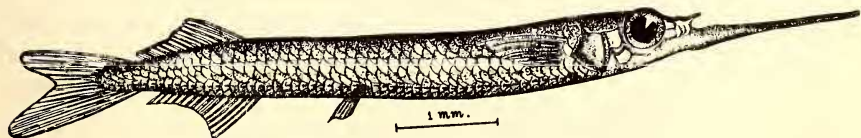
*(With a text-figure)*

## INTRODUCTION

During the years 1959 to 1962, extensive collections of fish were made by me from the Gorakhpur and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh. The collection included nine specimens of a new Hemiramphid fish which is described here.

### *Hemiramphus gorakhpurensis* sp. nov.

*Description:* D. 14-15; P. 10; V. 6; A. 15; C. 19; Ll. 50-54. Length of head is 2.53 (2.1 to 2.8), and the depth of body is 14.41 (13.00 to 15.75) in relation to standard length of the body. In relation to the length of the head the caudal peduncle is 4.65 (4.00 to 5.62), its height being 10.21 (9.33 to 11.50), interorbital space is 8.2 (7.00 to 8.5), width of head is 6.61 (5.60 to 7.60) and diameter of the eye is 7.65 (7.00 to 8.8). Eyes large and are 1.5 in relation to the postorbital length of the head, and 1 in relation to interorbital width. Upper jaw short and broadly triangular, lower jaw elongated, triangular, resembling a beak. Both jaws bear minute teeth, arranged in many rows. In the lower jaw teeth are present only on the basal portion. Dorsal fin arises slightly posterior to the anal fin. Both have concave outer margins. Base of anal fin is slightly shorter than the base of dorsal fin. The forked caudal fin has the lower lobe slightly longer and broader than the upper. 5 rows of scales between the base of dorsal fin and lateral line. Both anal and dorsal fins are slightly covered with scales at their base.



*Hemiramphus gorakhpurensis* sp. nov.

When fresh, the general body colour is silvery white with a brilliant silvery lateral band along the side of the body. Alcohol preserved specimens lose the coloration and the silvery band changes to black.

*Holotype*: In Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, Reg. No. F. 4203/2, Maheshara Tal, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, 14th January, 1960. Standard length 78 mm. Collector: G. J. Srivastava.

*Paratypes*: One in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta Reg. No. F. 4204/2, bearing the same data as holotype, standard length 79 mm. Another, bearing the same data as holotype in the Zoology Museum of University of Gorakhpur. Standard length 66 mm.

*Distribution*: Maheshara Tal, and River Rohini, Gorakhpur District, Uttar Pradesh.

*Relationship*: The new species is closely related to *Hemiramphus gaimardi* Valenciennes but can be easily distinguished from *gaimardi* by its slender body, the depth of the body being 14 times in total length whereas in *gaimardi* it is only about 11 times. *H. gaimardi* is a marine form entering estuaries and tidal rivers while *H. gorakhpurensis* is a purely freshwater species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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